

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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1. (Amended) A hydraulic system, comprising:
a hydraulic pressure source;
a tank;
a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;
a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function; and
a single, independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of
independently and electronically controllable valves operatively disposed between the
hydraulic pressure source, the tank, and the first and second load functions, said single,
independent metering valve assembly having an inlet fluidly coupled with said pressure
source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic load, [and] a second outlet
fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load, and a third outlet coupled with the tank.

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5. (Amended) The hydraulic system of claim 1, wherein said plurality of
controllable valves includes a first controllable valve disposed between said first hydraulic
load and the hydraulic pressure source and includes a pair of controllable valves disposed
between said second hydraulic load and the hydraulic pressure source and the tank.

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6. (Amended) The hydraulic system of claim 5, including a second
controllable valve coupled between said first hydraulic load and said tank, and said pair of
controllable valves including a third controllable valve coupled between said pressure source
and said second hydraulic load and a fourth controllable valve coupled between said second
hydraulic load and said tank.

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17. (Amended) A method of operating a hydraulic system, comprising the steps of:

providing a single, independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and electronically controllable valves, said single, independent metering

valve assembly including an inlet, a first outlet, a second outlet, and a third outlet;

fluidly coupling said inlet with a pressure source;

fluidly coupling said third outlet with a tank;

fluidly coupling said first outlet with a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

fluidly coupling said second outlet and said third outlet with a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function;

controlling said single independent metering valve assembly to control flow from said pressure source through each of said inlet, said first outlet, said second outlet, and said third outlet.

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18. (Amended) The method of claim 17, including the steps of:
providing a controllable valve coupled between said pressure source and said first hydraulic load;
providing a pair of controllable valves including a controllable valve coupled between said pressure source and said second hydraulic load and a controllable valve coupled between said second hydraulic load and said tank; and
controlling said first controllable valve and said pair of controllable valves to control the flow of fluid through said inlet, said first outlet, said second outlet, and said third outlet.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 18, including the steps of:
providing a second controllable valve coupled between the first hydraulic load and the tank.

20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of providing a pair of controllable valves includes the steps of:
providing a third controllable valve coupled between said pressure source and said second hydraulic load and providing a fourth controllable valve coupled between said second hydraulic load and said tank.

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21. (New) A hydraulic system, comprising:
a hydraulic pressure source;
a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;
a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function, the second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes;

an independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and electronically controllable valves, said independent metering valve assembly including an inlet fluidly coupled with said pressure source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic load, and a second outlet fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load; and

an adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

22. (New) A work machine, comprising:

a frame;

a hydraulic system carried by said frame, said hydraulic system including:
a hydraulic pressure source;

a first hydraulic load associated with a first load function;

a second hydraulic load associated with a second load function, the second hydraulic load including a pair of brakes;

an independent metering valve assembly including a plurality of independently and electronically controllable valves, said independent metering valve assembly including an inlet fluidly coupled with said pressure source, a first outlet fluidly coupled with said first hydraulic load, and a second outlet fluidly coupled with said second hydraulic load; and

an adjustable valve controlling an amount of flow from said second outlet to each of said brakes.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. Claims 1,2,4-7, and 17-22 remain in this application. Claims 1,5,6,17, and 18 have been amended and new claims 20, 21 and 22 have been added. Claims 3 and 8-16 have been canceled. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 4 and 13 if rewritten to